

DRIVERS ED

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EXT. PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY - DAY

1

*MUSIC CUE: 'THE SUMMER LOOKS GOOD ON YOU' by Cheap Trick*

*CLOSE ON:* Spinning tires on the highway. Flashy chrome rims. We pull out to see the crimson red Ferrari F50 cruising down a Californian coastal highway.

*Opening Credits* over the car follow its journey down the road. It looks like a commercial.

The car pulls up to a light.

**TITLE CARD: DRIVER'S ED**

The Ferrari pulls away to reveal a modest family SUV. Staring out the passenger seat window is our hero ETHAN (16), admiring the Ferrari speeding out of frame as Cheap Trick's intro track fades with the Ferrari's car stereo. Driving is Ethan's mother LISA, his little sister KIM (13) sits in the back.

2

EXT. ETHAN'S HOUSE - DAY

2

The SUV pulls into the driveway of a modest family home.

LISA

This is it!

As Ethan gets out, he drops his iPhone, which cracks on the pavement.

ETHAN

Cock.

LISA

Ethan.

Ethan picks up his spider-cracked phone.

LISA (CONT'D)

We drive for a week across the country and that's really all you can muster up?

KIM

I'm picking my room first.

Ethan rolls his eyes. They unpack the car.

LISA

Furniture should be coming this afternoon. I'll need your help with that, Ethan.

ETHAN

Can you take me to the Apple store first?

LISA

Phone can wait. Might be good for you to be offline for a day. Get out and meet some people.

\*

\*

ETHAN

I appreciate the prelude to a "Back in my day" speech but I'm not exactly jumping at the chance to meet these charming West Coasters yet.

LISA

Will you stop being so judgmental of these people? Whether you like it or not, you're one of them now.

BEO (O.S.)

Look out! Look out! Look out!

The family turns, following the sound. Speeding down the hill, BEO (15) lanky, surfer/skater hybrid, skates right towards an unsuspecting NEIGHBOR getting their mail. The neighbor notices and LUNGES out of the way, just as Beo skids his board, and flies off, right onto to pavement.

NEIGHBOR

Watch it, jackass!

Beo gets up, scraped, and waves a gesture of apology through a forced smile.

Beo skates away, and notices Ethan and his family.

BEO

Woah, greetings!

KIM

(to herself)

Ethan's right. These are fucking morons.

\*

Lisa playfully slaps her daughter on the head. Beo approaches.

BEO

I'm Beo. I live down the street.  
Well. I guess "up" the street.

ETHAN

Ethan. Nice to meet you.

BEO

You going to Jefferson next year?

ETHAN

Uh, yeah I think that's what it's  
called.

BEO

Sweet, that's where I'm going too.  
But not for three fucking months!

Lisa raises an eyebrow.

\*

BEO (CONT'D)

Oops, my bad.  
(gestures to his arm, now  
dripping blood)  
You guys got some ice, or?

2A INT. ETHAN'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

2A

The family enters their new home. Beo follows them in.

BEO

I knew the last family who lived  
here. They were into some spooky  
shit.

Lisa, off put by the stranger in their home.

LISA

You can run your arm under the  
sink.

BEO

Gracias.

Beo heads to the kitchen. Ethan notices his backwards hat  
with a New York Rangers logo.

ETHAN

You're a Rangers fan?

BEO

Huh?

ETHAN

Your hat.

BEO

Ahh fuc--frick yeah! My uncle played for them like, 20 years ago. Held the record for most fights on the ice two seasons in a row. He wasn't the best skater, but he sure was violent. Hey, sorry about bleeding on your floor. Are these real hardwood or laminate?

\*  
\*

LISA

Hey, Beo, was it?

Beo nods.

LISA (CONT'D)

We just got here after a really long drive. Maybe give us a second to enjoy our home as a family.

BEO

Oh shit, sure. Cool.

(to Ethan)

Ethan what you up to tonight?

ETHAN

I don't know, probably just settling in--

BEO

There's a party I can get you in to. You can meet the crew! Gonna be some crazy ass shhh--

(off Lisa's look)

--Straight edge. Water pong, jenga, no drugs. The works. Good time.

\*

ETHAN

I think I'm good.

LISA

Come on, honey. Might be good to meet some kids that go to your school.

KIM

Yeah Eth, go meet kids at the water pong party.

ETHAN  
(considers)  
I guess I got nothing better to do.

BEO  
Sick! I'll be back at 9p.

Beo exits, slapping the top of the door frame as he leaves like a hockey player leaving the locker room.

After a beat of staring at Lisa:

ETHAN  
So...you're saying I can't get a new phone because you want me spending time with that guy?

3 INT. ETHAN'S BEDROOM - DUSK 3

Ethan decorates his room. He tapes a baseball team photo from West Chester Junior High next to a bulletin board above his bed. \*

Kim enters with a box.

KIM  
More of your shit.

She drops it on the bed. Pictures spill out of it. Pictures from back home. Ethan and his friends at football games, riding bikes, with girls, etc. He lies on his bed and goes through them, soaking in the melancholic flood of memories.

4 EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - NIGHT 4

Beo skateboards next to Ethan riding his bike.

ETHAN  
So who's place is it?

BEO  
Jamie Simbleton. It's her end-of-the-year party. Fucking epic. You picked the right day to get to Cali. She's thrown the same one since 7th grade. \*

ETHAN  
Well, I don't know her. \*

BEO

Bitch, you don't know anybody yet. But you'll be good to go after tonight. Do you know how many strings I had to pull for this? You should be thanking me.

\*

ETHAN

No.

BEO

Her parents got nasty divorced like in 5th grade, so her dad's not there and her mom is hardcore alcoholic. It's great.

Ethan gives a skeptical look.

BEO (CONT'D)

Damn. Me and the new kid. I like the sound of that. I think it'll work. We'd be one popular duo.

ETHAN

That's what this is about? Should I be worried about what we're walking into?

Beo stops and turns to him.

BEO

Look. I haven't had the best run with most of these kids. And you just got here. So... we've got strikes against us.

ETHAN

Ah. Perfect.

BEO

They like me and all, it's kinda... Just be cool. This may or may not be the first time I'm actually invited, so don't blow this for me.

ETHAN

How would I blow this?

Beo reaches in his pocket and pulls out condoms.

BEO

Just follow my lead.

ETHAN

What the--

BEO

You want one?

ETHAN

What? No. Jesus, man.

BEO

Don't knock it till you try it.

ETHAN

Can't imagine why they haven't embraced you.

5 INT. JAMIE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

5

Music BLASTS throughout the packed house. Ethan and Beo enter, hesitant. They pass other HIGH SCHOOLERS partying as they make their way to the backyard.

POPULAR 1

Hey! It's that dude!

Some POPULARS walk over to Ethan and Beo, including JAMIE SIMBLETON (15), as pretty as advertised. Beo blushes at the sight of her.

JAMIE

You bring the weed?

Beo smiles, tapping his pocket.

BEO

Enough to make you red!

Beo pulls out a bag of weed.

JAMIE

Who's this?

BEO

Oh, you don't know Ethan?

JAMIE

No.

ETHAN

Just moved here.

Jamie sizes him up, as do the others. After a moment of judgmental assessment...



JAMIE

Cool.

BEO

Let's spark!

Jamie smiles, grabs the bag of weed and walks off, leaving Ethan and Beo.

BEO (CONT'D)

I'm about to indulge in grade A kush with Jamie Simbleton. Shit got real. I'll be back.

\*

Beo follows Jamie to the rest of the popular kids, while Ethan hangs back.

MONTAGE of Ethan at the party:

*CUT TO:*

Ethan talks to a CHATTY GIRL.

CHATTY GIRL

Ugh, I had a boyfriend from New York. He was rich, which was great, but he cheated on me so I broke his kneecaps.

ETHAN

What a dick.

CHATTY GIRL

Me or him?

ETHAN

Both?

She doesn't laugh.

*CUT TO:*

Ethan talks to a JOCK holding a case of beer.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Yo, can I snag one?

JOCK

Who are you?

ETHAN

Ethan. Just moved here.

JOCK  
You're the New York kid.

ETHAN  
Yeah.

JOCK  
I don't like New York or your  
bullshit New York hair.

Ethan nods.

JOCK (CONT'D)  
Five bucks.

Ethan gives him a \$5, the jock hands him a beer.

ETHAN  
Thanks dude, I really--

Jock bounces.

Ethan looks over to a GUY playing acoustic guitar alone in  
the corner to nobody's enjoyment.

GUITAR GUY  
(sings)  
*I wish you would step back from  
that ledge m--*

He stops to tune the guitar.

GUITAR GUY (CONT'D)  
(sings)  
*I wish you...*  
(tunes again)  
*I wish...*  
(tunes again)  
*I wish you...*

Ethan leans in to strike up a conversation...Fuck it. Ethan  
walks away. Guitar Guy winks at GIRLS in the room.

END OF MONTAGE.

6 EXT. JAMIE'S BACKYARD - LATER

6

Ethan sits alone in a private part of the backyard. Jamie  
Simbleton approaches.

JAMIE  
Cig?

ETHAN

What's up?

She lights a cig, gives it to Ethan.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Right.

He puffs and hates it.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Nice.

JAMIE

First one?

ETHAN

No, I go to tons of parties.

JAMIE

I mean cigarettes.

ETHAN

Oh, no, but I usually smoke reef.

JAMIE

Reef.

ETHAN

Yeahhhh.

BEAT.

JAMIE

Where you from again?

ETHAN

Manhattan.

JAMIE

Really?!

ETHAN

Yep. Biiiiiig Apple.

Ethan takes a huge drag, eyes squinting from the pain.

JAMIE

Freshman?

ETHAN

Out here I am. They're making me  
restart the year.

JAMIE  
You look older than a freshman.

ETHAN  
Well, plus I had to restart 5th grade.

JAMIE  
What are you, like, dumb or something?

ETHAN  
It was a joke.

JAMIE  
I don't get it. So you're like 20?

ETHAN  
Just turned 16 last week.

JAMIE  
Well happy late b-day--  
Wait, so you can drive.

ETHAN  
Uhh. Yeah.

JAMIE  
Did you drive here?

ETHAN  
No, I don't have a--

Ethan pauses, Jamie fully engaged.

ETHAN (CONT'D)  
My car is in the shop.

She thinks. Studies him further.

JAMIE  
You wanna get a drink?

ETHAN  
Sure.

Across the yard, Beo watches as they go get a drink together and chat. Jamie flirtatiously smiles at Ethan, before being grabbed by her other friends.

Beo signals Ethan to come to him.

BEO

Dude, what were you just talking to Jamie about?!

ETHAN

Nothing really. Just getting to know her.

BEO

How awesome is this party, buddy?

Ethan gives a contained smile.

BEO (CONT'D)

Don't even say it. I'll say it.  
YOU. ARE. WELCOME.

A POPULAR KID comes over.

POPULAR 1

Hey dude. What's your name again?

BEO

It's Beo.

POPULAR 1

Naaaht you.

ETHAN

Uhh, Ethan. It's Ethan.

POPULAR 1

Ethan. Cool. You're 16?

ETHAN

Yeah.

Popular 1 yells to the other group.

POPULAR 1

Hey Blake! Come over here!

The rest of the popular group, including Jamie and BLAKE (14) \*  
a preppy douchebag, come over.

BLAKE

What's up?

POPULAR 1

It's true.

BLAKE

Word?! Nice bro. I'm Blake. Heard you got a ride.

JAMIE

His name is Ethan.

\*

She smiles very friendly at Ethan.

ETHAN

Hey.

BLAKE

So sweet, dude!

POPULAR 1

He's from New York.

BLAKE

Oh damn! New Yorker!

Ethan is smiling, Beo is impressed.

BLAKE (CONT'D)

So Ethan, you're going to  
SummerFest this year, right?

Ethan looks to Beo, who nods inconspicuously.

ETHAN

Sure am.

JAMIE

Really? I already got my tickets!

She grabs his arm slightly.

BLAKE

Dope! You can give us a ride, yeah?

ETHAN

Well, um...

BLAKE

Yeah, we were going to get Ricky's  
brother to take us in his decked-  
out van, but he got a DUI from  
Nyquil.

ETHAN

Nyquil?

POPULAR 1

Devil's medicine.

BLAKE

But now you can drive the van! Let  
me get your number.

JAMIE

And you don't mind, if I get your number too?

Ethan, concerned, looks at Beo.

ETHAN

No, I don't, I just, truth is--

BEO

--Yeah, he can drive! He loves driving. Licensed and everything!

POPULAR 1

Cool! Let's see it!

BLAKE

The new kid comes through!

POPULAR 2

Yeah, let's see the ID! Did you make a silly goose face?

ETHAN

Uhh... it's... oh damn, in my other pants.

Blake grabs Ethan by the shoulders.

BLAKE

We're gonna have a hell of a road trip!

JAMIE

(to the group)

SummerFest is back on! July 4th weekend here we come!

Everyone cheers! Ethan does not!

7

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - NIGHT

7

Ethan and Beo ride home.

ETHAN

What the hell, man?

BEO

Oh I'm sorry, are you mad at me for making you the king of the school your first day here?

ETHAN

Beo. I don't have my licen--

BEO

"Beo I don't have my license." You better change the New York cynical attitude, this is Cali. And you think I didn't know that and create a plan already?

ETHAN

If you say fake ID, forget it.

BEO

Bitch! Who do you think I am?

ETHAN

Then what??

BEO

You're gonna get a real license.

Ethan...waiting...

BEO (CONT'D)

Driver's Ed.

Beo goes left at the fork, down his street. Ethan goes the other way.

ETHAN

SummerFest is in like a month.

BEO

Then you better pick an expedited course.

Beo smiles.

BEO (CONT'D)

It's all happening, bro!

Beo raises his hands in victory, not seeing the mailbox-- THWACK! He takes out the mailbox and eats it in the street.

8

INT. ETHAN'S HOUSE - DAY

8

Ethan's home is crowded with moving boxes. The family eats breakfast together.

LISA

So did you meet any new friends?



KIM  
You do some underage drinking?

ETHAN  
Too many questions.

KIM  
He totally did.

LISA  
So no luck sweetie? Do you want us  
to talk with other parents about  
their kids and find you a friend?

Lisa pours a very full glass of wine.

KIM  
Oh God please do that.

ETHAN  
Actually, something that might help  
me out, is, if I finally get my  
license.

LISA  
Hmm. You said it wasn't a priority.

ETHAN  
Yeah, that was in New York where no  
one drives. But I'm 16 now, and  
it'd be good to have my license out  
here.

LISA  
Well, I gotta say, I like the  
initiative.

ETHAN  
So can I get money for Driver's Ed  
class?

Lisa studies her son with a suspicious wince.

LISA  
Sounds like money well spent.

KIM  
Does it?

LISA  
Kim.

Ethan smiles.

KIM

And I can't even get twenty bucks  
for H&M.

\*

LISA

I'm subsidizing hard work, not a  
One D T-shirt.

KIM

What did you just call them?

LISA

I'm hip.

9 EXT. DRIVERS ED - DAY

9

Parents drop off kids at the Driver's Ed school.

Outside the classroom, confidently rotund in cat eye glasses,  
MIDGE MONROE (think Paula Pell) checks students in.

She exchanges a look with Ethan as he enters.

10 INT. DRIVERS ED - MINUTES LATER

10

Students talk amongst themselves as Monroe organizes at her  
desk. Ethan approaches her.

ETHAN

Hi Ms. Monroe. Ethan. Really  
looking forward to your class.  
Listen-- I'm wondering if there's  
any extra work I can do to speed  
this all along. I kinda need my  
license as quick as possible. Just  
wanted to let you know I'm willing  
to put in the extra work to make  
that happen.

She smiles tightly.

MONROE

Take a seat, son.

ETHAN

Ok, yeah, we'll talk later. Good  
idea.

Monroe goes to the front door and slams it shut.

MONROE

Listen up. Welcome to CA Department of Motor Vehicles--approved Drivers Education Accelerated. I don't know any of you yet, but I hate you. Just as one collective underage driving entitled brat.

The room tightens.

MONROE (CONT'D)

Plain and simple-- kids don't belong behind the wheel. Your age group is most likely to get into an accident. Whether it's your run-of-the-mill fender-bender, to literally murdering someone crossing the street. I have a grandmother in an iron lung.

A CONCERNED STUDENT raises his hand.

CONCERNED STUDENT

Was she hit by a drunk driver?

MONROE

Smoker. Two packs a day for 40 years. And I'd trust her behind the wheel more than all of you. Who can tell me why?

Silence.

MONROE (CONT'D)

Because she doesn't have *friends*.

Huh?

MONROE (CONT'D)

You people always need to have friends in the car to show off your new freedom! Yay! Sounds great! Oh what was that sound? Look behind you. You just ran over a puppy.

Uncomfortable.

MONROE (CONT'D)

That little stew puddle with fur in the middle of the road? His name's Waffles. And now he looks like one. Hope the reckless joyride was worth it.

\*

The classroom door opens and in walks LAUREN (16). She realizes she's late. Ethan stares.

\*

Silence as she shuts the door behind her and starts moving towards a seat.

MONROE (CONT'D)  
Great start.

Lauren, embarrassed, finds a seat.

MONROE (CONT'D)  
Name?

LAUREN  
Lauren Samuels.

Monroe finds her on her list, makes a check-mark.

MONROE  
Tardy.

Lauren sits. Monroe squints her eyes and surveys the room.

MONROE (CONT'D)  
Time to test some preliminary knowledge.

She points at STUDENT 1.

MONROE (CONT'D)  
Where do you keep your hands at all times?!

STUDENT 1  
Uhh... on the wheel?

MONROE  
10 and 2! If you're in lane 2 on a 5 lane road with a school bus stopped in lane 4 with 2 double yellows and a must turn right lane, do you stop when the lights flash?!

STUDENT 1  
Uh...

MONROE  
Do you stop?!

STUDENT 1  
I don't know!!

The student fights back a tear. She looks at him with disgust.

MONROE

You've got to make decisions ten times faster than that on the road.

The class is stunned.

MONROE (CONT'D)

I will prepare you for the road, or you won't be on it. It's that simple. And for those of you that want special treatment...

Monroe looks straight at Ethan.

MONROE (CONT'D)

You'll get it.

11 EXT. DRIVERS ED - DAY

11

The students leave the building. Lauren starts walking down a path and Ethan walks the same way. Lauren turns curiously.

ETHAN

Just trying to see where you live...

Lauren gives him a look.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

In case you're late again...I could come get... I'm kidding. I'm sorry. I live this way too.

\*

She looks back at him again, as if to give him one more chance.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

See? Now I'm as uncomfortable as you were walking in late to class.

Lauren cracks a smile, still a little suspicious.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

I'm Ethan.

LAUREN

Lauren.

ETHAN

God. What a Nazi, am I right?

LAUREN  
...Sorry?

ETHAN  
Monroe.

LAUREN  
Ohhh. Yeah, I had no idea Driver's  
Ed was supposed to be this intense.

ETHAN  
Yeah I'm not sure how we're even  
going to pass.

LAUREN  
If we do the work, she's got to  
pass us, right?

ETHAN  
That's a good philosophy. Maybe you  
can tell that to my 1st grade  
teacher. I always did the work but  
she still hated me. Probably for  
cutting off her hair with scissors  
twice in a year.

LAUREN  
(laughs)  
Oh my God.

ETHAN  
I was a problem child, sure.

Getting his sense of humor, she laughs harder.

They smile and get to a fork in the road.

LAUREN  
Well, I'm off this way.

ETHAN  
I'm this way.

LAUREN  
Thanks for weirdly making me feel  
better. Weirdo.

Ethan smiles sheepishly.

LAUREN (CONT'D)  
See ya next class.

ETHAN  
See you then.

They part ways. Lauren sneaks a glance back at him.

12 INT. ETHAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

12

The family are in the kitchen, cleaning up after dinner.

LISA

Well just drop the class and get a different teacher.

ETHAN

I can't do that! I'd have to wait for the next session to start. I don't have time for that.

LISA

What's the rush?

ETHAN

Uhh, I just, I'm excited.

LISA

She seems like a refreshing dose of structure.

ETHAN

Mom. She made the kid cry.

LISA

Builds character.

ETHAN

Or a severe anxiety disorder.

LISA

Either way, it's good. Snowflake.

(BEAT)

Besides, before we know it, I won't have to play chauffeur anymore.

Lisa likes the sound of that and cheerfully turns on the faucet to do dishes.

13 INT. DRIVERS ED - DAY

13

Monroe addresses the classroom.

MONROE

Your driving partner is more than just another student. You will live and die by each other's fortunes and faults.

The class gulps.

MONROE (CONT'D)

You will spend a lot of time together and get to know each other well. It should be noted that your grade depends on your partner. You will share overall points.

Lauren glances at Ethan, who is already looking at her. He turns his heads as to not be noticed.

MONROE (CONT'D)

Now. Take 55 seconds and find a partner. Go!

Ethan turns to Lauren.

ETHAN

Hey, so, do you--

MONROE

--Hold on there, Mr. Special. I've got your partner.

Monroe leads him to a nervous Indian boy, DAK. A different GUY approaches Lauren.

MONROE (CONT'D)

Dak. Look alive. Meet Ethan, your new partner.

Lauren deflates, approached by another GUY. She agrees to the new Guy, but still glances at Ethan.

ETHAN

Hey. Ethan.

DAK

Dak.

ETHAN

So. Looking forward to getting out on the road?

DAK

Oh, yes. Piece of cake.

ETHAN

Nice. Should be good having a solid driving partner.



DAK

Oh, yeah you don't have to worry about me.

Ethan nods, relieved.

DAK (CONT'D)

In fact, I should be getting my new glasses really soon. We are perfect.

ETHAN

What's wrong with those?

DAK

They um, the prescription, I can't really...see.

MONROE

--OK! Back to your seats. You're going to take your first ride with your partner. TODAY. Here's the driving schedule.

Monroe posts a schedule on the board.

MONROE (CONT'D)

And would you look at that? Ethan and Dak, you're up.

She unclips the "student driver" car keys from a wall hook directly behind her and chucks them at Ethan, who she misses and hits another KID in the head.

Embarrassed, Ethan picks up the keys and follows Monroe and Dak out of the classroom. The rest of the class sits there in awkward silence. After a long pause...

STUDENT 1

So, do we just sit here, or...

14

EXT. DRIVERS ED - DAY

14

Ethan and Dak stand in front of the Driver's Ed car and listen as Monroe talks.

MONROE

4 Cylinder, 4 door, piece of crap Asian hunk of metal. Perfect for you nerds. Now, go around and do your four point check.

Ethan circles the car and marks in his note pad where the dents are.

Dak enthusiastically runs his hands over the car, feeling the dents, writing in his notepad. He gets on his belly and crawls under the car.

MONROE (CONT'D)  
 Alright, knock it off, Prince Ali.  
 Let's get going.

They all open their doors and get in.

MONROE (CONT'D)  
 Let's keep it nice and easy. I'm  
 not dying today.

Dak is standing at the driver's door, Ethan has the rear passenger door behind him open.

DAK  
 I hate this part.

ETHAN  
 What part?

DAK  
 Driving.

15 INT. DRIVERS ED CAR - CONTINUOUS

15

Dak starts the car perfectly. Takes his time checking the mirrors. Monroe writes in her note book, seemingly relaxed. Dak moves with extra care, turns on his indicator and looks out the window to go left.

MONROE  
 You take any longer I'll hit  
 menopause again.

DAK  
 Right.

He gives Monroe a smile. Suddenly he punches it and the car goes up on the curb.

MONROE  
 WOAH! What the hell?!

Ethan braces himself.

DAK

Ugh! All these other cars... I just... let me try again.

ETHAN

How are those eyes, buddy?

Dak turns around and gives Ethan a thumbs up, while looking six inches to the left of him.

16

INT. SUBURBAN STREET - DUSK

16

Ethan and a shirtless Beo walk and talk as they eat fast food.

BEO

So she's strict. Big deal. Sounds like you'll actually know how to drive and won't kill us on the way to SummerFest.

ETHAN

I thought you said it would be easy.

BEO

I did?

ETHAN

Yeah.

BEO

(thinks)

How would I know that?

Silence.

ETHAN

Anyway, it's intense.

BEO

Yup. Ya know, you should just cheat off some smart chick in the class.

ETHAN

There is this girl, Lauren. She seems smart.

BEO

Lauren Samuels?

ETHAN

Yeah. You know her?

BEO

Yeah, she's super weird.

ETHAN

Coming from you? She was instantly one of the coolest people I've met since I moved here. Why is she weird?

BEO

In 4th grade she freaked out one day and had to be taken to the hospital. The crazy hospital, the one for crazies.

ETHAN

What?

BEO

Yeah, I heard her family didn't even want her to come back. I thinks she's got a deadbeat dad and a deadbeat mom and a deadbeat baby sister.

Ethan suddenly gets a text: from **Jamie Simbleton**: "Nice meeting you!" Beo and Ethan share a moment of surprise. Beo snatches the phone.

\*  
\*

ETHAN

What are you doing?

Beo quickly sends an emoji.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

WHAT THE FUCKING HELL?!

BEO

Will you relax? This is good. I knew you weren't going to do it, so I helped push you over the ledge.

ETHAN

No one ever needs to be pushed over the ledge! They need help coming off of it!

BEO

If you were ever standing on a ledge, I would be a friend and push you off that thing faster than you can say "Goodbye cruel world!"

ETHAN  
Dude, I'm gonna look like an idiot.

BEO  
Only if she doesn't respond!

BEAT. The two look at each other. No response. Ethan shakes his head.

BEO (CONT'D)  
Oh well, at least--

PING!

JAMIE  
(TEXT)  
**Lol.**

The two guys look at each other, mouths agape. Hell yes!

ETHAN  
What do I say?

BEO  
Okay, okay, play it cool.

Ethan types:

ETHAN  
(TEXT)  
**What's up over there where you are at?**

Ethan presses SEND.

BEO  
"Over there where you are at?!" The fuck does that mean?

ETHAN  
What?

BEO  
Why don't you just ask her what's her favorite blood type, you robotic serial killer.

JAMIE  
(TEXT)  
**Nothing much, parents making me stay in tonight.**

BEO  
Let me take this one, Shakespeare.

Beo types:

ETHAN

(TEXT)

**Looking forward to driving you to  
Summerfest.**

JAMIE

(TEXT)

**Can I be your co-pilot?**

The boys look at each other and nearly cum in their pants.

ETHAN

I got this.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

(TEXT)

**Aye aye, Captain.**

BEO

WHAT?! NO!! The fuck is that!?!?

ETHAN

Captain, like a ship.

BEO

I KNOW!

\*

PING!

\*

JAMIE

(TEXT)

**I was thinking we can hangout some  
time. My friend Jessica can come,  
if you and your pot friend want to  
go to a movie or something.**

The boys absolutely freak out!

BEO

She is hooking me up with Jessica?

ETHAN

That's good right?!

BEO

If you're into the 5 Below version  
of Jamie.

ETHAN

Oh, come on dude. Take what you can  
get from this group!

They approach Beo's house. His father, a professional white collar DENNIS gets the mail.

BEO  
Yo pops! Pops! Your boy's got a  
date with a girl.

DENNIS  
Put on a goddamn shirt, son.

BEO  
Love you too!

Dennis walks back inside the house.

ETHAN  
Nice guy.

BEO  
He's alright. Text her back. Seal  
the deal.

Ethan looks back at his phone.

ETHAN  
(TEXT)  
**Sounds cool.**

JAMIE  
(TEXT)  
**Great :) Talk soon luv**

ETHAN, with mouth open, types:

ETHAN  
(TEXT)  
**I luv you too.**

He grins at Beo, who tackles him before Ethan can press send.

17 INT. DRIVER'S ED CLASSROOM - DAY

17

The students work on a written assignment.

Ethan gets up from his desk and approaches Monroe, who's fumbling with papers beneath her desk.

ETHAN  
Excuse me Ms--

She jolts up, dropping the papers.

MONROE

Jesus!

ETHAN

Sorry.

MONROE

You're like a damn alley cat.

ETHAN

Umm.. I just need to borrow an extra pen.

She aggressively gives him a pen.

He picks up one of the stray papers to hand back to her. She immediately snatches it out of his hand.

MONROE

Don't touch my papers. And next time raise your hand instead of sneaking up like that. Cat.

ETHAN

I did.

MONROE

I didn't ask if you did, just do it.

Ethan, confused, goes back to his seat.

18

INT. DRIVERS ED CAR - DAY

18

Ethan is driving the car with Dak in the backseat as Monroe gives directions.

MONROE

Signal left.

Ethan signals left.

MONROE (CONT'D)

Change lanes.

Ethan looks in mirror and switches lanes. Monroe writes in her notebook.

MONROE (CONT'D)

Ok, pull over in this gas station. Mommy's gotta hit the can. You two switch. Dak will drive us back.



Ethan pulls into the gas station and they get out. Monroe goes inside the Grab 'N Go.

19 EXT. GAS STATION - DAY

19

Ethan and Dak stand by the Driver's Ed car.

ETHAN

Ok, remember, slow is better. You got those new glasses?

DAK

Yes.

ETHAN

Great.

DAK

But these aren't them.

Ethan notices Jamie Simbleton walking with a group of Populars right towards them!

He looks at the Driver's Ed car and then rips off the "Student Driver" sign on the roof and throws it in the backseat. He looks at Dak.

ETHAN

Get in the back, don't say a word.

Dak gets in the backseat, Ethan starts the car and pulls up to the other side of the gas station, just as he's noticed by the populars. \*

POPULAR 1

Hey, it's Ethan!

JAMIE

Hey you!

19A INT. GAS STATION GRAB N' GO - CONTINUOUS

19A

Monroe comes out of the bathroom, the clerk PHILLIP (late 20s gamer) notices her.

PHILLIP

Need to buy something.

Monroe turns to him.

PHILLIP (CONT'D)

Toilet's not a free ride.

With a snarl, Monroe grabs the Slim Jim jar and puts one on the counter. Then another. Then another. Then takes that one back.

Through the window, Ethan pulls up to Jamie and the Populars.

ETHAN

Hey guys.

BLAKE

Oh dude! Is this your ride?!

ETHAN

Yeah, one of 'em.

POPULAR 1

Whoah.

Jamie and Ethan exchange smiles.

BLAKE

Who's that?

Dak sits stoically in the back, avoiding eye contact.

ETHAN

Oh, it's just my buddy.

BLAKE

Why is he sitting in the back?

ETHAN

He's afraid of airbags.

19B INT. GAS STATION GRAB N' GO - CONTINUOUS

19B

Phillip rings up Monroe, who watches him with contempt. She studies him with familiarity. Phillip notices.

PHILLIP

Tried out for the soccer team when you coached at Mercy High.

MONROE

Huh. That must be it.

PHILLIP

Yeah.

Phillip looks at her intensely.

PHILLIP (CONT'D)  
 You threw a ball at my crotch to stress the importance of wearing athletic support on the field.

MONROE  
 Did I?

PHILLIP  
 Sure did.

Monroe chuckles to herself. Phillip does not.

19C EXT. GAS STATION - CONTINUOUS

19C

BLAKE  
 Right. Hey, can you give us a ride to the mall?

ETHAN  
 Oh, uh, I'm supposed to drive Dak home and then meet my mom and sister.

BLAKE  
 Come on dude.

JAMIE  
 Pweease?

ETHAN  
 Shit Jamie, I'm so sorry, I'd love to, but I should keep my mom happy so that there's no question about SummerFest, ya know?

JAMIE  
 (considers)  
 No, I get it.

POPULAR 1  
 Oh come on bro--

Just then, Dak starts dry heaving and making noises.

ETHAN  
 Dak? You okay?

POPULAR 1  
 Oh! Gross, he's spitting everywhere!

BLAKE

Let's get out of here.

JAMIE

Ok, well, I was gonna see if you wanted to go to Jessica's party with me next weekend?

Ethan looks around for Monroe. Dak keeps dry heaving.

ETHAN

Yes! For sure! I'd love to.

JAMIE

Ok, good.

She gives him another squeeze.

BLAKE

Go fix your friend, he looks sick.

Jamie and the group leave. \*

Ethan jumps back in and floors it, driving the car to the other side of the gas station, so the Populars can't see them. \*

ETHAN

Thanks for that back there.

DAK

I just saw all these kids who are cool and hot and I don't know what happened.

ETHAN

Just hurry up and help me with the sign!

19D INT. GAS STATION GRAB N' GO - CONTINUOUS

19D

Monroe receives her change and grabs her Slim Jims from the counter.

MONROE

I see you've made some great moves in your life...  
(sees the name tag)  
Phillip.

PHILLIP

You really did a number to my self esteem.

Monroe takes a man-sized bite off the processed jerky.

MONROE

I breed winners. Guess you weren't interested in that path.

With seething hatred, Phillip watches her leave.

19E EXT. GAS STATION - CONTINUOUS

19E

Ethan throws the parking brake on and the two jump out to fix the Driver's Ed sign on the car.

ETHAN

Grab the clip on the left!

Dak fiddles and tries his best. The two are frantically fastening the sign back down and finally get it clipped in--

MONROE

What the hell is going on?

Ethan and Dak don't move.

MONROE (CONT'D)

This is not where we left the car.

ETHAN

Uh...

MONROE

Did somebody with a LICENSE drive it?

ETHAN

Sorry, Ms. Monroe, the police said we were parked in a no parking zone.

Monroe shoots them a look of vehement distrust.

DAK

Yes. No parking.

ETHAN

I didn't want to get a ticket.

Monroe eyes Ethan, tries looking through him.

MONROE

Dak, you're driving.

Dak gets in the car. Monroe looks straight at Ethan--

MONROE (CONT'D)

And if you ever take the wheel  
without me in the car, you'll be  
just another one of my flunkies.  
Promise.

He nods. They get in.

MONROE (CONT'D)

Back to the classroom.

20

EXT. DRIVERS ED - DAY

20

Lauren and Ethan are walking home.

LAUREN

My friend heard that like 90% of  
people fail her class.

ETHAN

You're kidding me.

LAUREN

Nope.

ETHAN

Something's weird about that. It  
doesn't make sense.  
(BEAT) And I can't believe you were  
late again today!

LAUREN

I know. I'm terrible.

ETHAN

Maybe I should've stalked your  
house after all. I would've made  
sure to have you there on time.

Lauren half-chuckles.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

What is it that makes you late all  
the time? Napping? Late breakfast?  
An outright rejection to authority?

LAUREN

I'm just not good with time I  
guess.

Ethan doesn't buy it, but drops it. His phone BUZZES. It's a  
cute emoji text from Jamie.

LAUREN (CONT'D)  
Nice phone screen.

ETHAN  
Dropped it the within 5 seconds of  
living here.

Phone BUZZES again. Another flirty Jamie text.

LAUREN  
Mr. Popular.

ETHAN  
Just some girl. You know Jamie  
Simbleton?

LAUREN  
Ah. Yes I do.

ETHAN  
Yeah, she's great.

LAUREN  
Is she?

ETHAN  
Uhh...

LAUREN  
I mean...  
(sarcastic)  
Yeah she's greeeeat.

Ethan smiles.

LAUREN (CONT'D)  
So you guys are kinda....

ETHAN  
I don't know. It's nothing.

LAUREN  
Right.

ETHAN  
We're not officially dating or  
anything, there's just some ongoing  
flirtation.

LAUREN  
Gross.

ETHAN

Well, it's just that I'm not too experienced with having a girlfriend.

LAUREN

Oh. Haven't had any?

ETHAN

I've had tons!

LAUREN

That sure is something someone who's had many girlfriends would say.

After a pause...

ETHAN

Okay, maybe two.

Lauren smiles.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Okay, maybe zero.

LAUREN

Well, it's easier than you think.

ETHAN

Really?

LAUREN

I'm not a relationship expert, but I know that what I'd like, is just to be treated normal, like go to the movies or something.

ETHAN

Which movies?

LAUREN

Like the ones where the guy buys the girl ice cream, and he's nice to her, and hugs her. You know, sappy stuff.

ETHAN

Hugs her.

LAUREN

Was that a lame example?



ETHAN

So lame I'm actually thinking differently of you. In a negative way.

Lauren laughs.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

So you want a rom-com with hugging.

LAUREN

(laughing)

I don't know! I want a gentlemen, maybe someone who cares what I have to say, and looks out for me, and walks me home, that type of thing.

Ethan smiles. They come to the fork in the pathway.

LAUREN (CONT'D)

Anyway, see ya tomorrow?

ETHAN

Yeah. And thanks for the help. Now I know who to go to for dating advice.

LAUREN

Hey, anytime, let me know.

ETHAN

Maybe we can have dinner sometime?

LAUREN

You just asked for dating advice for Jamie Simbleton and now want to know if I'll go on a date with you?

Ethan, embarrassed, shrugs lightly.

LAUREN (CONT'D)

I'll think about it.

She winks playfully. They smile and head their different directions. Ethan turns around.

ETHAN

Hugs included!

Lauren cackles.

21 INT. ETHAN'S BEDROOM - EVENING

21

Beo reads a magazine while Ethan wraps up a call.

ETHAN  
Ok. Bye, Jamie.

BEO  
She can probably hear your erection  
over the phone.

ETHAN  
Shut up, she's cool.

BEO  
Keep it in your pants when you see  
her tonight. And make sure you put  
in a good word to Jessica for me.

ETHAN  
Roger that.

BEO  
Oh, my mom said she can drop us  
off. I'll make her do it a few  
blocks away.

ETHAN  
Good.

Suddenly Ethan gets a text.

ETHAN (CONT'D)  
Fuck.

BEO  
What?

ETHAN  
Fucking fuck my fuck.

BEO  
What?! What?!

ETHAN  
Jamie wants a ride to the party.

BEO  
I thought you said you two were  
meeting there?

ETHAN  
Her dad can't take her. I knew I  
was in way over my head.  
(MORE)

ETHAN (CONT'D)

She thinks I've got these cars, and I can come pick her up, of course she wants me to, we're a thing, and now I'm--

BEO

--Calm down! Ok. So. We just need to "borrow" someone's parents' car.

ETHAN

You mean, like, steal it?

BEO

Well, with their consent. What about your Mom's?

\*

ETHAN

No, she took it for the night.

\*

BEO

Shit. My pops has an ear like a dachshund. Also he doesn't like me so I'm a corpse if I even try.

They think.

BEO (CONT'D)

Wait. You have a car!

ETHAN

What are you talking about?--

BEO

--Didn't you tell everybody the Driver's Ed car was yours when they saw you at that gas station?

Ethan doesn't like this.

ETHAN

Forget it.

BEO

So...

ETHAN

No.

BEO

That's your car!

ETHAN

Not happening.

BEO  
Isn't it just parked at the school?

ETHAN  
NOT HAPPENING BEO.

BEO  
Well, we can just try to snag it.

ETHAN  
Oh, yeah that's super easy, I'll  
get my pliers and just put the blue  
and red wires together and away we  
go.

BEO  
Exactly!

ETHAN  
That's insane! First of all, we're  
not even capable of doing that.

BEO  
Well fuck, we can't think of  
ANYBODY?

They think.

ETHAN  
Ugh. Shit.

BEO  
What?

22 EXT. ETHAN'S HOUSE - EVENING

22

Ethan and Beo are standing looking at a shorter Dak with his  
heavy glasses on. Silence.

BEO  
This is your guy?

DAK  
Hello. Dak.

BEO  
Yo dude.

ETHAN  
Thanks for coming over man.

DAK  
I'm ready for the party!

ETHAN

Well, before that, we kinda have a slight issue we need your help with.

DAK

No problem, anything for you.

ETHAN

We need to borrow your parents' car.

DAK

Fuck you both. Nope.

ETHAN

But I thought you--

DAK

--My parents will hang me from the top of Kanchenjunga.

BEO

The Indian place on Melrose?

ETHAN

Look man, if you want to come to the party with us, we need a car. Period. It's with the same group that we saw when we were out driving with Monroe. Remember them?

DAK

The cool kids.

\*

ETHAN

Yeah, so we got a deal?

DAK

But didn't you say that was your car we were driving?

ETHAN

Yeah. We've already been over this--

DAK

Then let's get that car.

Frustrated, Ethan shakes his head.

BEO

Yes!

ETHAN  
Jesus, what is with you two?!

BEO  
--Hold on. Dak, you know how to  
steal cars?

BEAT.

DAK  
I know how to get keys.

23

EXT. DRIVERS ED - NIGHT

23

Ethan, Beo and Dak sneak near the building. Beo and Ethan wear black hoodies, while Dak wears a shawl with little beads that make noise with every step.

BEO  
Did you have to wear that?

DAK  
It's my mother's. For disguise.

BEO  
No, we don't--

ETHAN  
--Guys! Shhh.

They make a break for it and run towards a different side of the building. They sneak around the outside of the classroom and line up with their backs to the wall, breathing heavy. Dak starts wheezing.

BEO  
Shut up man!

ETHAN  
It's his asthma, motherfucker!

Dak takes a breath of an inhaler and the wheezing stops. He then points up. Beo and Ethan look up with him and see an open window about 12 feet off the ground.

Beo gets on Ethan's shoulders, and Dak climbs up Ethan and over Beo to the open window. Dak is in and gives the thumbs up to Ethan and Beo and then disappears to the dark room.

BEO  
I don't know about your friend.

ETHAN

He got in, didn't he?

Just then Dak comes frantically running back to the window, startling Ethan and Beo. \*

BEO

What?! What, man?!

DAK

I found it!

BEO

Great, let's get out of here.

Dak holds up a sweater.

DAK

I knew I left this in here!

BEO

The keys Dak Fuck!

DAK

Oh, yeah. I have those too.

Dak holds up keys.

BEO

Jesus Christ.

DAK

Ok, now, pull me up.

BEO

What? How?

DAK

You didn't bring the rope?

BEO

No, I didn't bring "the rope"! The fuck is "the rope"??

ETHAN

Go out the front door, and just lock the handle behind you. \*

Dak disappears once more into the darkness.

After a moment Dak opens the door--WWWAAAOOOWWWWAAAAA--

THE ALARM GOES OFF!

Dak shuts the door behind him immediately and the ALARM STOPS.

The three freeze. BEAT. It seems like forever. They look around. SILENCE. Then sprint to the car!

24 EXT. DRIVERS ED CAR - CONTINUOUS

24

They hurry to take off the Student Driver sign and put it in the trunk of the car.

ETHAN  
Give me the keys.

DAK  
No, I need to practice more.

ETHAN  
Not the time, buddy!

Ethan snatches the keys from him and gets in.

DAK  
Fine. Front seat.

BEO  
Oh no, I've got shotgun. You're in the back.

DAK  
I got keys Beo Fuck.

BEO  
Dak, we can't show up to the party with you in the front seat having an asthma attack!

ETHAN  
Just sit in the back Beo. We have to pick up Jamie first anyway.

BEO  
No!

DAK  
Fine, then we compromise.

25 INT. DRIVERS ED CAR - CONTINUOUS

25

Ethan drives. Dak sits on Beo's lap in the front passenger seat.



ETHAN

Ok, so Dak, that girl you saw me talking to, we're kind of a thing, so don't mess anything up with her.

Beo clocks this.

BEO

Okay, we're almost to her house, get in the back like you said.

Dak climbs to the back.

ETHAN

And DEFINITELY do not mention Drivers Ed. Under any circumstance.

BEO

Ethan already has his license. Got it?

DAK

No he doesn't.

BEO

Dak! We're fibbing a little to help us all out. Girls, Dak.

DAK

Oh yeah, he passed the class quickly and got his license.

BEO

NO!! He's already had it for a while.

DAK

Oh! Right! No class.

Beo looks at Ethan concerned.

He parks in front of the house.

ETHAN

I'll be right back.

27

EXT. JAMIE HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

27

Ethan nervously approaches the house. As he reaches the front door, he's quickly met by Jamie and her guy friend, TODDY.

JAMIE

Hey Ethan!

ETHAN  
Oh! Hey! Your chariot is here.

JAMIE  
Aw, isn't he sweet?

Jamie kisses Ethan on the cheek.

JAMIE (CONT'D)  
Ethan, this is my friend Toddy.

TODDY  
What up.

Ethan does a poor job of hiding his confusion.

ETHAN  
Hey.

JAMIE  
I told Toddy that he could get a ride with us.

ETHAN  
Oh.

JAMIE  
That's cool right?

Jamie then gets extra close to Ethan and gives him a squeeze.

ETHAN  
Oh yeah! For sure. Here, let me open the door for you.

Ethan opens the passenger door for Jamie. As he shuts her door, he notices Toddy standing at the back door.

TODDY  
You gonna get my door too?

ETHAN  
What?

TODDY  
Ahh! Just fucking wit ya.

Ethan ignores him and gets in.

Ethan and Jamie in front, Toddy between Beo and Dak in the back, both giving him a death stare.

ETHAN  
(to Jamie)  
So this party should be kickin.

JAMIE  
It'll probably be lame.

ETHAN  
Yeah. True. True.

JAMIE  
But I am excited that I've got my  
Ethan who can drive!

Ethan smiles.

JAMIE (CONT'D)  
I've got a lot of stuff I need to  
get to and I'm sick of the bus.

ETHAN  
Totally.

Ethan gives a look in the rear view mirror to Beo.

TODDY  
So what kinda cars do you like?

ETHAN  
Me?

TODDY  
Yeah.

ETHAN  
Oh, just the normals, like the 3-Vs  
and Valve pushers.

TODDY  
Umm. You mean like a Viper or  
Corvette or something?

ETHAN  
Yeah, totally.

TODDY  
Ok, so like, sport cars.

ETHAN  
Sports cars. Yep. Cars of the  
sports.

TODDY  
What?

ETHAN  
 --Hey, we're here!

29 EXT. JESSICA HOUSE PARTY - NIGHT

29

The group enters the backyard party to the delight of several PARTYGOERS. The rest of the POPULARS hug Jamie and Toddy. JESSICA and Jamie hug. Beo tries to act cool for Jessica.

JESSICA  
 (gestures to Ethan)  
 So this is him?

JAMIE  
 Sure is.

JESSICA  
 Hi, Ethan. Jessica.

ETHAN  
 Nice to meet you. You know my  
 friend Beo?

Ethan tries to intro Beo, but is interrupted by Blake.

BLAKE  
 About time! How'd you guys get  
 here?

JAMIE  
 Oh, just my personal driver!

She puts her hand on Ethan's chest and smiles.

POPULAR 2  
 Sweet! Here bro!

Popular 2 hands Ethan a beer.

JAMIE  
 Oh, no, he's driving tonight and  
 we've got to keep him intact.

POPULAR 1  
 (takes beer)  
 More for me!

BLAKE  
 Let's see the car bro, time for a  
 joyride!

JAMIE

Can everyone just chill? He just got here, I need my Ethan time.

The group groans. Ethan smiles.

BEO

Hey, can I get a beer?

JAMIE

Yeah, get a beer for, Ethan's friend, what's your name again?

BEO

Beo.

JAMIE

Right.

DAK

Excellent!

They stare at Dak. He takes a beer off a table and pounds his drink aggressively fast.

The group erupts with cheers-- *enter MONTAGE:*

- The kids play various beer games
- Dak is doing a keg stand
- Beo struggles to make conversation with Jessica, while she flirts with Blake
- Ethan in the center of a circle of kids, making them laugh. Jamie puts her arm around him.
- Jessica walks up to Beo.

JESSICA

Hey, you're umm...

BEO

Beo!

JESSICA

Right, and you're friends with...

BEO

Ethan. And you're Jessica.

JESSICA

You got it.

BEO

Yeah, I think Jamie wanted me and you to... you know...

JESSICA

Right! Yes. I'm glad you came.

BEO

Me too, you throw a hell of a shindig.

JESSICA

So. I was wondering if maybe you could stay later after the party?

BEO

Uh, oh! Yeah!

JESSICA

You're free?

BEO

Definitely. I'm wide open.

JESSICA

Ok, great, so extra trash bags are in the garage, and there's Windex in that crate.

BEO

Wait, you want me to...clean up?

JESSICA

And there's gloves over there if you need them. Thanks!

Jessica gives him one of those shitty popular girl hugs with zero sincerity behind it, leaving Beo distraught.

She walks over to Ethan and some Populars.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

So he's not actually your friend, is he?

ETHAN

Who, Beo?

JAMIE

Yeah. I think I remember him from like 3rd grade when he'd eat glue.

POPULAR 1

Yeah, definitely a loser. You hang with him, Ethan?

ETHAN

Uh.. Just sometimes, not always.

POPULAR 2

Good. Don't want you eating glue too.

TODDY

HA! Right!

Toddy playfully punches Ethan, who looks at Beo again, trying to restrain the look of guilt.

LATER:

The party dies down and begins emptying out.

Beo carries garbage bags to the trashcans behind the shed. He hears rustling in the trees beside the shed.

He takes a closer look into the darkness and sees...Jamie and Toddy making out.

Beo's eyes go wide and ducks away. He takes another peek, and sees them groping each other.

Beo scurries away, heading over to Ethan, and tries to pull him away from the group.

BEO

Yo, Ethan, come here.

ETHAN

What?

BEO

Come over here.

ETHAN

Can it wait?

BEO

No.

ETHAN

Come on, I'm in the middle of something.

BEO

Man, I need to talk to you.

ETHAN  
You're acting like my mom.

The group laughs, Beo tries to shrug it off.

BEO  
Dude. I'm serious.

ETHAN  
Me too, Mom.

The group laughs even more.

Just then, Dak vomits onto the fire pit.

PARTY GIRL  
Ewww!!!

The group gets up and goes over to Dak. Jamie and Toddy run over too.

JESSICA  
Out! Out! Out!

Jessica is trying to get Dak to move without touching him.

ETHAN  
Ah, I drove him, I'll drop him off  
in his front yard.

POPULAR 1  
(drunk)  
You're a good man, Ethan.

ETHAN  
You just gonna stand there?

Beo scoffs but reluctantly helps Ethan carry Dak out.

30

INT. CAR - NIGHT

30

Dak is passed out in the back.

BEO  
Why you acting like a dick back  
there?

ETHAN  
I wasn't. You were just being  
annoying.



BEO

Well I saw some shit that I have to tell you.

This catches Ethan's attention.

ETHAN

What?

Beo hesitates.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

What is it?

BEAT.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

All this nagging and you're not gonna tell me? Jesus Christ.

BEO

Jamie and that fucking fool Toddy were making the fuck out man.

ETHAN

What?

BEO

Behind the shed.

ETHAN

What? No way.

BEO

I'm telling you what I saw.

ETHAN

Are you sure you saw it?

BEO

What you mean? Of course.

ETHAN

Are you sure you're not just getting jealous and trying to make stuff up?

BEO

What the fuck man? Are you serious?

ETHAN

You've always been obsessed with these guys and now that I've become friends with them, you're freaking out.

BEO

Oh fuck you, man.

ETHAN

Fuck you!

BEO

You know what, let me out.

ETHAN

Gladly.

Ethan pulls over.

BEO

Ya know, I was the one that got you there.

ETHAN

You used me to get in with these guys so they'd think you're cool and forget about the glue, well guess what, they didn't forget about the glue! You're the glue gobbler.

Beo slams the door and starts walking. Ethan takes a moment, thinking. He parks the car and gets out.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Come on. Stop being a bitch and just let me drive you home.

\*  
\*

Beo turns to him aggressively.

BEO

Who the fuck do you think you are? You'd be nothing without me!

ETHAN

Wow, gimme a fucking break.

\*

BEO

No!

He's fired up. Ethan pauses as Beo stares him down.

BEO (CONT'D)  
 Did you ever...  
 (beat)  
 Did you ever consider for a second,  
 that maybe I had a thing for Jamie?

Ethan takes this in for a moment.

ETHAN  
 That's not my problem.

BEO  
 Ha. Got it. Have a good night,  
 Ethan.

Beo turns away and walks alone into the darkness, until Ethan stands alone next to the car.

After a moment of reflection he gets back in, shuts the door and turns on the ignition.

Dak shoots up like he got a needle of adrenaline to the chest.

DAK  
 EXCELLENT!!!

Dak vomits.

31 INT. DRIVERS ED - DAY

31

Mid-class. Monroe writes on the white board.

Lauren and Ethan chat in the back of the room. He looks like shit.

LAUREN  
 You look like shit.

ETHAN  
 Woah. Thank you.

Lauren holds back a laugh.

LAUREN  
 Late night?

ETHAN  
 You have no idea.

Lauren doesn't inquire further.

ETHAN (CONT'D)  
I stole the car.

LAUREN  
What?

ETHAN  
*The car.*

LAUREN  
You're kidding.

Ethan shrugs.

LAUREN (CONT'D)  
And you just, what? Took it for a ride?

ETHAN  
Something like that.

Lauren's skeptical.

LAUREN  
How did you even return it and not get caught?

Ethan shrugs again.

SMASH CUT TO:

32 EXT. DRIVERS ED BUILDING - THE NIGHT BEFORE 32

Dak lies on the concrete, moaning from drinking. Ethan hurriedly puts the "Student Driver" sign back on. Once it's secured, he tries picking up Dak off the ground.

Anxious and frustrated, he drags a moaning Dak out of frame.

SMASH BACK TO:

33 INT. DRIVERS ED - BACK TO PRESENT 33

Lauren, wide-eyed, glances over at Dak, sleeping with his eyes open.

Monroe completes the lesson.

MONROE  
That's it for the day. Remember, final exam next week. So start praying for that passing grade.  
(MORE)

MONROE (CONT'D)  
I'm sure the Lord will hear it and  
really drop everything to help ya  
out.

The class disperses. Lauren exits too. And as Ethan is just  
about to be free--

MONROE (CONT'D)  
Hold it.

Ethan turns.

MONROE (CONT'D)  
Come here.

Ethan approaches her, trying to keep cool.

MONROE (CONT'D)  
How do you think you're doing in  
the class?

ETHAN  
As well as I think I can.

She starts a slow walk around him. She nods.

MONROE  
Ya know, you had that trust fund  
vibe at first but I've realized,  
you're a hard worker. You turn in  
your assignments on time. You're  
patient with the skitzy Indian  
fella.  
(beat)  
I just hope you don't ever do  
anything to compromise your chances  
of getting your license.

Ethan doesn't answer. Monroe throws him a long, hard look.

MONROE (CONT'D)  
Anything you wanna tell me, son?

Ethan silent. She looks in his eyes. She's intimidating as  
shit. Until-- She wretches, almost like she held back a  
massive burp, killing the alpha facade.

Ethan doesn't know what the fuck just happened.

MONROE (CONT'D)  
It's called acid reflux nerd.  
You'll get it someday. When you're  
41 like me. Get out of here.

Ethan exits. The 59 year old Monroe waits until the door is shut. She slyly gets out a Lock-Box and sets it on her desk.

She then goes through some test papers of the class. We see their names, "Stephanie" "Dak" "Lauren" "Ethan". She stops on Ethan and looks at some of his answers. She takes out a fat RED PEN.

34 EXT. DRIVER'S ED - CONTINUOUS 34

Ethan exits the building to find Lauren waiting for him outside.

ETHAN

You didn't have to wait--

LAUREN

What was that about?? I was looking in and saw her about to eat your head. Did she find out?

ETHAN

No! I mean, I don't think... I'm not sure. I need to get my mind off it.

Ethan exhales. He then looks at Lauren and smiles.

35 EXT. ICE CREAM SHOP - DAY 35

Ethan and Lauren walk up to an ice cream shop.

ETHAN

Yeah, so dad left about 8 years ago, so it's been me and my mom and sister. Frequently annoying.

LAUREN

Ugh. You don't know what an annoying family is. Trust me.

ETHAN

Care to elaborate?

LAUREN

Nah, don't wanna bore you. Let's just say I see your moderately annoying little sister and raise you an entire household of nutjobs.

35A INT. ICE CREAM SHOP - CONTINUOUS

35A

Ethan and Lauren enter and approach the counter. Behind the counter, DONNIE (23) scoops ice cream for a CUSTOMER.

LAUREN  
Hey Donnie!

DONNIE  
Yo!

Lauren bypasses the line and goes behind the counter. Ethan stops.

LAUREN  
What's wrong? Let's go.

Ethan looks at Donnie, not noticing. Ethan follows Lauren behind the counter.

Lauren grabs two scoops, handing one to Ethan.

LAUREN (CONT'D)  
Donnie's my cousin. High school drop out who's worked here since 8th grade. Lovable degenerate.

DONNIE  
(hears his name)  
What's that?

LAUREN  
I said thanks for letting me do this all these years, cuz.

DONNIE  
Oh. Ha. You got it.

Lauren turns back to Ethan.

LAUREN  
It's my nice little retreat. When home life gets too chaotic, I come visit Mr. Choco-Daddy.

Noticing Ethan's confusion, Lauren points to the wall, where there's a crudely painted chocolate ice cream cone with a top hat and monocle.

ETHAN  
That looks a lot lik--

LAUREN  
Mr. Peanut. I know.

Ethan observes the image.

ETHAN  
I'm actually frightened.

\*

36 EXT. STREET - DAY

36

Ethan and Lauren walk on their similar path home together, finishing their cones.

ETHAN  
And she goes, "Did anyone with a license drive this car?"

LAUREN  
No!

ETHAN  
Yeah, I almost shit myself.

LAUREN  
(chuckling)  
Well we both better have ours soon.

ETHAN  
Yeah. (BEAT) So, why is having yours so important to you?

LAUREN  
Why is it so important for you to get yours?

ETHAN  
I asked you first.

LAUREN  
Really?

Ethan's not budging.

LAUREN (CONT'D)  
Mmm... It's kinda part of my...  
"getting out of the loony bin of a house" strategy.

ETHAN  
Fair enough.

LAUREN  
Your turn.



ETHAN

I... was just gonna take some  
friends up to SummerFest.

Lauren deflates a little.

LAUREN

Ah. Your new posse?

Ethan lets out an embarrassed smile.

LAUREN (CONT'D)

Thanks for the ice cream Ethan.

She smiles and starts on her way home, leaving him.

37 INT. ETHAN'S BEDROOM - DUSK 37

Ethan enters and face-plants onto his bed. Until...

His phone BUZZES. He shoots up and looks at the message.

38 INT. ETHAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT CONTINUOUS 38

Ethan and his mother in mid-discussion.

LISA

You're not supposed to drive alone.

ETHAN

I just want to practice around the  
block. It'll help me get more  
confident if I'm alone.

Kim enters.

KIM

Don't let him do it.

ETHAN

Who are you?

KIM

Oh, I'm just a drifter who's  
squatting in your room. What's with  
all those used tissues in the  
trash?

LISA

Shut up, Kim.

(to Ethan)

(MORE)

LISA (CONT'D)  
You're really taking this  
seriously.

ETHAN  
As serious as grandpa's heart  
attack.

LISA  
Too soon.

ETHAN  
I know.

Ethan looks at her sincerely.

LISA  
All right, go.

She tosses him the keys.

ETHAN  
I love you like you're my mom.

He kisses her. Kim flips him off as he leaves.

LISA  
(to Kim)  
You've become a severe  
disappointment of a daughter.

KIM  
What the hell?

39 INT. MOM'S CAR - NIGHT

39

(EXT. MALL)

Ethan pulls up to the outside of the mall. He sees Jamie come out.

JAMIE  
Nice ride love!

ETHAN  
Thanks... love.

Ethan sheepishly smiles as Jamie opens the door.

ETHAN (CONT'D)  
Sorry I'm a little la--

Toddy appears behind her and gets in the car too.

TODDY  
Thanks for picking us up bro!

ETHAN  
Yep.

It's awkward. Jamie flirts with Ethan. He's less reciprocal.

ETHAN (CONT'D)  
So, I guess I'll drop you off first  
Toddy. Where do you live?

TODDY  
Oh, I'll just get dropped off at  
Jamie's.

Ethan flashes him an annoyed look in the rearview mirror.

TODDY (CONT'D)  
Make it easier on you bro!

ETHAN  
You're a hell of a guy Toddy.

Jamie laughs and turns up the radio.

JAMIE  
Thanks love!

She tussles Ethan's hair.

39A EXT. JAMIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

39A

Ethan pulls up to the house. Toddy gets out. Before Jamie does, she turns to Ethan.

JAMIE  
You know, some of us have been  
talking about how great you are.

He turns to her and takes her words in.

JAMIE (CONT'D)  
If this SummerFest goes as planned,  
you got a bright future at  
Jefferson. I'm talking Homecoming  
King, Prom King, Most Likely to  
Succeed, Most Likely to Date Me...

Ethan can't help but light up a little.

JAMIE (CONT'D)  
(winks)  
Promise.

She kisses him on the cheek and gets out. He takes a moment, thinking, looking at the clock on the dashboard.

40 INT. MOM'S CAR - LATER

40

(EXT. VACANT PARKING LOT)

\*

Dak is in the driver's seat.

ETHAN  
You don't understand. I have to pass this class. Have to.

DAK  
Me too.

ETHAN  
Well neither of us are going to pass unless you start getting better. Our final test is in two days.

DAK  
Ok. I'm ready.

ETHAN  
Say it again. And this time act like you're not in a prison shower.

DAK  
What??

ETHAN  
You're insecure as shit, Dak. That's obstacle number one. Come on. Say you're ready.

DAK  
I'm ready.

ETHAN  
Bullshit.

DAK  
I'M READY, MOTHERFUCKING FUCK!

ETHAN  
Thatta boy. Now back up outta here and drive out onto the street.

Dak puts the car in gear, and starts reversing.

Ethan looks at Dak, nodding in approval.

DAK

See! I just needed my new--

Just then, a LOUD SIREN from a COP CAR!

ETHAN

Oh, actual fuck.

Dak slams on the brakes. A cop car has blocked them from behind.

DAK

We're screwed?

ETHAN

Shit. Do you have anything that looks like a license?

Dak reaches in his wallet and whips out:

DAK

HomeGoods membership.

ETHAN

Nevermind.

DAK

What happens now?

ETHAN

We go to fucking jail.

40A EXT. COP CAR - CONTINUOUS

40A

The cop gets out, approaching Ethan's car. He leans into the radio walkie on his chest.

COP

(into radio)

Got a couple of lovebirds in mid-makeout sesh in a red zone at the mall. Nothing serious.

40B INT. MOM'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

40B

Dak is frozen.

ETHAN

Roll down the window, Dak.

Dak doesn't move.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Are you kidding me??

Ethan leans over Dak's lap to try pressing the window button.

40C

EXT. MOM'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

40C

As Cop walks up to the window, he notices the scuffle from behind-- seeing Ethan leaning into Dak's lap.

He approaches the window as Ethan finally manages to roll it down.

COP

Oh! Alright. Alright. No, this is cool. All good. I actually have a gay uncle, so I'm fine with this. Got it in the fam. I mean, he didn't tell us at first. Kinda kept it a secret for 48 years but we appreciated the honesty and openness at what made a very memorable 49th birthday. So...(winks) I get it.

\*  
\*

Ethan and Dak stare nervously.

COP (CONT'D)

Listen. I don't want to do this, cause, you know, like I said, gay uncle, but let me just run your information and I'll send you horny geese on your way. Just protocol.

Still frozen...

COP (CONT'D)

License and registration...

Just then, DAK FLOORS IT!

ETHAN

What the fuck are you doing?!

DAK

Not going to jail!

40D EXT. COP CAR - CONTINUOUS 40D

The Cop watches them speed away.

COP

Hm.

40E INT. MOM'S CAR - CONTINUOUS 40E

They're freaking out, thinking they're being chased.

ETHAN

Well you're for sure going to jail  
now!

Dak, somehow by the grace of God, maneuvers the car through  
the streets like a pro.

DAK

10 and 2.

Ethan looks at Dak who is laser focused.

DAK (CONT'D)

Indicate at 100 meters.

Smooth Tom Cruise driving.

DAK (CONT'D)

License and Registration!

Ethan checking the mirrors. Dak makes a few turns, finally  
swerving into a quiet neighborhood. He perfectly slides like  
a stunt driver into a parallel parking spot. Shuts off the  
engine and the two duck down. \*

Silence.

After a moment, the two get up slowly.

ETHAN

I think you might be ready to pass  
Driver's Ed.

DAK

Thank you. Motherfucker.

40F EXT. DAK'S HOUSE - NIGHT 40F

Ethan drops Dak off.

DAK  
I feel alive.

ETHAN  
You did good, buddy.

DAK  
Let's do it again.

ETHAN  
That's enough for one night.

DAK  
One more time?

ETHAN  
Goodnight, Dak.

Dak sulks and gets out.

Ethan's phone BUZZES. It's Lauren. He opens the text to find a picture of Mr. Choco-Daddy. He laughs to himself.

40G EXT. ETHAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

40G

Ethan exhales a sigh of relief as he pulls up towards his house. His relief is shot when he sees...

The cop car waiting for him.

ETHAN  
(to himself)  
Fuck.

Ethan parks and gets out.

ETHAN (CONT'D)  
Evening, officer--

COP  
Your getaway vehicle is registered  
to this address.

ETHAN  
(BEAT)  
I...well, I wasn't driving when we  
drove away. This is my mom's car.

Cop approaches him, getting close.

COP  
Drivers license.



ETHAN

I, I, (gives up) I'm taking  
Driver's Ed.

COP

Oh, so you're really fucked.

ETHAN

My friend and I were practicing for  
the driving test.

Cop isn't impressed. Ethan sees the upstairs lights switch  
on.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Look, please don't tell my mom. I  
just need to survive two more  
classes with Midge Monroe till I'm  
officially licensed. Please.

COP

Midge... Monroe? Teacher at  
Interlake? \*

ETHAN

Jefferson. \*

COP

Hm. Blonde curly hair, pumpkin  
face? \*

ETHAN

Small world. Yeah, she teaches  
Drivers Ed during the summer. \*

COP

Ho-ly S.

Ethan's curious. Cop takes a moment to himself.

COP (CONT'D)

She flunked me out of P.E. and I  
never got to ask Florentina Jimenez  
to prom.

Cop takes a second to let that sink in.

COP (CONT'D)

Florentina wore pink on Wednesdays.  
And like an idiot I waited till  
senior year to make a move. \*

Ethan's confused.

COP (CONT'D)

But of course Bryce Collins swooped her before my eyes and now they have 4 beautiful children. God, I wish I was one of those kids. So I could murder my dad.

Cop starts to break down a little.

ETHAN

Oh, dude, I'm sorry, uhh... do you need a--

COP

--Hug?

Cop walks up and gives him a hug.

COP (CONT'D)

Ya know, I'll bet if Midge wasn't your instructor, you wouldn't have broken the law.

ETHAN

No sir.

Lisa comes out.

LISA

Ethan? What the fuck is going on?

ETHAN

Cock.

COP

--Sorry to wake you, ma'am. Just made a courtesy stop. Making sure everything's all right.

LISA

Oh yeah? Is that a thing out here?

Cop looks at Ethan, like "Is this bitch for real?"

ETHAN

Mom, it's fine.

COP

It's like Neighborhood Watch.

Ethan looks at her like, "See?"

BEAT.

\*

LISA  
Okay, well thank you Officer.

COP  
Happy to be of service, and...I  
like that pink robe. Gotta get me  
one of those...  
(off Lisa's look)  
I mean, I don't want one. I think  
it looks great on you. Maybe you  
and your son share it. Cause he's  
gay.

Lisa looks to Ethan.

COP (CONT'D)  
Anyway, gotta split. Here's my card  
if you need anything.

Lisa looks at the card, then at him, smirking.

LISA  
Thank you.

COP  
It's actually my cell.

LISA  
Okay. Thanks.

COP  
So, like, if you want.

LISA  
Thanks.

COP  
Brad. It's Brad.

LISA  
Got it. Thanks, Brad.

COP  
Great...Great.

He turns to leave.

COP (CONT'D)  
Best of luck with Midge, kid.  
You're gonna need it.

ETHAN  
Thanks. Brad.

The cop heads back to his patrol car.

Lisa turns to Ethan.

LISA  
Something you wanna tell me?

41 INT. DRIVER'S ED - DAY

41

Monroe gives back written tests to the students.

MONROE  
Abysmal. All of you. Am I teaching myself up here? The final driving test tomorrow just got a hell of a lot more crucial. For most of you, the only chance of passing this course is to receive a seamless driving performance tomorrow. But am I surprised?

Monroe laughs at herself.

Ethan and Lauren exchange concerned looks.

MONROE (CONT'D)  
Get out of here.

The students disperse. Lauren approaches Ethan.

ETHAN  
Yeah, you're right, there is something going on with those tests.

LAUREN  
I swear I knew those answers.

ETHAN  
So weird. How could... Ugh, I gotta figure it out.

LAUREN  
Well don't go all Grand Theft Auto again.

ETHAN  
I won't. That was stupid.

LAUREN  
Yeah it was. Maybe we can just go get ice cream again instead?

ETHAN

Like now?

LAUREN

Uhh.. Yeah.

ETHAN

You don't need to get home?

LAUREN

I... really don't want to go home  
right now.

Ethan clocks this.

ETHAN

How about dinner at my house?

LAUREN

Oh? Um. Sure. Yeah that'd be fun.

Monroe appears in front of Ethan almost out of thin air,  
startling them both.

MONROE

Oh, good you're still here. I  
noticed a pretty heinous scent of  
bodily fluid and store-brand Windex  
in the student driver car. You  
wouldn't know anything about that  
would you, kid?

ETHAN

I'm not sure what you're talking  
about.

MONROE

Either I got an alcoholic homeless  
man living in that piece of metal  
at night or I got a botched job  
straight out of some sorta junior  
high production of Pulp Fiction.  
Just asking.

ETHAN

Ms. Monroe, I can honestly say I  
have no idea what you're talking  
about.

She stares at him. Unwavering.

MONROE

Good luck tomorrow, kid.  
(to Lauren)  
(MORE)

MONROE (CONT'D)  
 You as well little lady, you'll  
 need a horseshoe up your ass too.

Ethan and Lauren are scared as shit, until... Monroe belches  
 another acid reflux bubble. Ethan and Lauren can't hide their  
 revulsion.

MONROE (CONT'D)  
 Get out.

42 INT. ETHAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

42

Family dinner with Lauren.

LISA  
 So nice to have Ethan bring home a  
 girl.

KIM  
 And someone who's supposedly  
 normal!

LISA  
 (to Lauren)  
 Sorry for my prepubescent bitch  
 over here.

ETHAN  
 (under his breath)  
 I regret this.

Lauren laughs along.

LAUREN  
 Thank you again for having me and  
 cooking such a great meal.

LISA  
 Oh it was nothing.  
 (beat)  
 So, are you two, just friends or...

ETHAN  
 Mom. We're friends. Please.

LISA  
 Just curious.

ETHAN  
 She just didn't wanna go home after  
 Drivers Ed.

Ouch. Lauren taken aback a little.

LISA

Tomorrow's the big day, yeah?

\*

Lauren and Ethan nod.

\*

LISA (CONT'D)

How are you feeling about it,  
Lauren?

LAUREN

As good as I think I can feel. Our  
teacher is a problem though.

LISA

I heard.

LAUREN

But here's hoping we'll have our  
licenses by the end of the week.

(to Ethan)

Hey, when is SummerFest again?

Lisa perks up. This is the first she's hearing of SummerFest.

ETHAN

Oh, that? 4th of July weekend. I  
think.

\*

Lauren nods.

\*

LISA

What's SummerFest?

ETHAN

It's the big concert of the summer.  
I was thinking of going.

\*

LISA

Mmkay. You have any 4th of July  
plans, Lauren?

\*

LAUREN

Ah, as fun as SummerFest sounds,  
the whole reason why I'm getting my  
license is so I can drive upstate  
that weekend. To visit my Dad. For  
Visiting Day.

\*

Lauren realizes she might have said too much. The family  
exchanges looks.

KIM

SummerFest sounds better.

The front doorbell DINGDONGS.

LISA

Ah.

Lisa goes to the door. Ethan and Lauren get up from their finished plates.

ETHAN

Wanna watch a movie?

LAUREN

Sure.

Ethan leads Lauren upstairs, before noticing Lisa answering the door to reveal: Brad the Cop, well dressed with a bottle of merlot. Ethan's jaw drops.

LISA

Hi, Brad.

COP

I'm late. I---I brought wine.

(noticing Ethan)

Hey, you!

(noticing Lauren)

Ha. This generation. All over the place right?

LISA

Come in.

He steps inside and heads to the dining room. Ethan looks to his mother for an explanation.

LISA (CONT'D)

(whispers)

Oh, stop. He's sweet.

Brad the Cop extends his hand to an alarmed Kim.

COP

I'm Brad.

KIM

Eww.

Ethan and Lauren watch a movie from a loveseat next to Ethan's bed. Lauren shuffles a bit to make herself more comfortable, leaning into Ethan more. He notices the move, and puts his arm around her.



LAUREN

Ha. Bold.

ETHAN

I can't believe that just happened.

They laugh, just before Ethan's phone BUZZES. He ignores it and they continue watching the movie.

Another BUZZ. Ethan sighs, gets up and checks it. He stares at it for a moment, then looks at Lauren.

LAUREN

Cool kids beckoning you again?

ETHAN

Huh? No no. I, just...

(BEAT)

Something came up... with my cousin.

LAUREN

Your cousin.

Ethan struggles to make eye contact.

ETHAN

Yeah.

Lauren gives him a disapproving look. She gets up. Exhales.

LAUREN

Ethan. I deal with liars every day of my life, and I love being around you because you're not like that.

ETHAN

It was my cousin!

LAUREN

Just...stop. I know you've already been talking with Jamie. I'm not mad. Just please, please don't lie to me about it.

Ethan stands there silent. Not sure what to say. A few uncomfortable moments pass.

LAUREN (CONT'D)

Really?

Ethan's speechless. Lauren leaves.

LAUREN (CONT'D)  
Give sexy flirty Jamie my best.

Ethan lets her go. He stands there for another beat.

After another beat, he kicks a chair.

ETHAN  
Shit!

43A INT. ETHAN'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS 43A

Brad the Cop sits across from Kim, who's giving the deadliest of death stares while he eats. He tries to ignore her. Lisa observes from the head of the table.

COP  
Killer grub.

KIM  
Knock it off.

COP  
Sorry?

LISA  
Kim, go to your room.

KIM  
I'm good.

Everyone notices Lauren, upset, leaving out the front door.

COP  
Ha. What's her problem, am I right?

Kim's stare does not break.

Ethan sneaks downstairs, heads to the kitchen unnoticed.

43B INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS 43B

Ethan takes Lisa's keys out of a drawer.

44 INT. MOM'S CAR - NIGHT 44

(EXT. MALL)

Ethan pulls up to the mall again. Jamie and Toddy are waiting.

JAMIE  
Hey you! Took a little longer than  
expected this time!

ETHAN  
Yeah, well. Traffic.

Ethan gives a forced smile.

Just as they're about to get in the car, Ethan spots Beo,  
leaving the mall alone on his skateboard, drinking a Slurpee.

JAMIE  
Oh look, Weed Kid.

TODDY  
That's the guy with the glue right,  
babe?

ETHAN  
(cringing)  
"Babe?"

Jamie looks caught. Toddy yells at Beo.

TODDY  
Yo dude!

Beo sees them and comes over.

BEO  
Hey Toddy, Jamie.

Beo sees Ethan.

ETHAN  
Hey.

Beo looks away.

TODDY  
So dude, is that cup full of glue  
or what?!

Toddy bursts out laughing to himself.

TODDY (CONT'D)  
The glue gobbler.

BEO  
Ha. Got it.

Ethan looks at Beo take the humiliation. He watches Jamie and  
Toddy laugh for way too long. Finally...

ETHAN

Ya know what, I can't give you guys  
a ride. Beo. You want a ride home?

JAMIE

What??

BEO

Really?

ETHAN

Yeah. Hop in.

Beo takes a long look at him. After a beat:

BEO

I'm good.

ETHAN

What?

BEO

Thanks anyway.

Beo begins to skate away, leaving a confused Jamie and Toddy.

JAMIE

Ethan, what are you doing?

Ethan still watches his friend. After a moment, he turns back  
to them.

ETHAN

Sorry. Babe.

Ethan drives off. As he drives slowly by Beo, they exchange  
looks for a moment. Ethan then looks straight ahead as he  
drives towards the exit of the parking lot.

TODDY

Hey! Glue Boy!

Beo stops in his tracks. He slowly turns towards them.

BEO

What's up?

TODDY

You and your boyfriend better work  
your shit out so we don't get  
ditched at the mall like this  
again.

BEO  
I'll get right on it.

Beo turns to leave again.

JAMIE  
Yeah, get back to being a pair of  
losers instead of separate ones.

Beo stops again. Taking a deep breath, he turns back to them.  
They're right behind him.

BEO  
Got it. I'm a loser. Ethan's a  
loser.

Jamie doesn't flinch.

(INT. CAR)

Ethan's at the stoplight to leave the mall. He notices the  
exchange in the rearview mirror.

44A (EXT. MALL)

44A

BEO  
But, if that's the case, then what  
does that make this Lego-headed  
mouth breather of yours?

TODDY  
Lego?

JAMIE  
He's trying to get you mad, idiot.

TODDY  
You wanna fight bro?

BEO  
Nah.

TODDY  
Let's see what you got!

BEO  
Really?

TODDY  
You scared, bitch?

BEO  
 I wouldn't fight someone like you,  
 man. Don't even have your fucking  
 shoelaces tied, dick.

And, just like an idiot, Toddy looks down at his supposedly untied shoes before--BAM! Beo throws an underwhelming uppercut right into his jaw.

44B (INT. CAR)

44B

Ethan sees the punch!

ETHAN  
 Holy shit!

Ethan U-turns back into the lot and heads back towards them.

(EXT. MALL)

Toddy lunges toward Beo, who tries to make a break for it on his board. Toddy grabs his collar. Beo elbows him right in the jaw again, breaking free.

Ethan SWERVES right next to them on the curb, the windows rolled down.

ETHAN (CONT'D)  
 Fuck your pride! Let's go!

Beo doesn't even think-- He dives through the passenger window and Ethan takes off.

Jamie stands in stunned silence over Toddy moaning on the ground, holding his jaw with both hands.

45 INT. MOM'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

45

Wide-eyed Ethan looks at Beo, who's breathing heavily.

ETHAN  
 What the fuck, man! Look at the  
 balls on Beo!

Beo barely cracks a smile, still looking straight ahead.

ETHAN (CONT'D)  
 Oh, come on man. Don't do this.  
 I'll bring you right back there,  
 young man.

After a moment, Beo cackles.

BEO  
Alright, fine! What the fuck!

ETHAN  
Ahh!

An explosion of excitement has Beo smacking the roof of the car and Ethan smacks the wheel.

BEO  
We just dissed Jamie Simbleton.

ETHAN  
Did you see her face?!

BEO  
Look at the balls on me! Or should I say "us", with that Fast and Furious swerve to the rescue there. \*

Ethan laughs.

BEO (CONT'D)  
Are you still gonna take her to SummerFest?

ETHAN  
We'll see how she feels tomorrow.

BEO  
Wow. You're still gonna drive them. Dude.

Ethan thinks.

ETHAN  
I said I would. It's too late now.  
(beat)  
In the meantime, I have an issue.

Beo looks at him, concerned.

ETHAN (CONT'D)  
You see, I bought this extra ticket but don't know what to do with it.

After a moment of thinking to himself, Beo realizes.

BEO  
Did you buy me a ticket?

ETHAN  
I felt like an asshole.

Beo, touched, but holding back:

BEO  
Well, you were.  
(BEAT)  
But...thanks dude.

Beo gives him a playful bro punch in the arm.

BEO (CONT'D)  
Is...is this your mom's car?

ETHAN  
She let me have it for an hour.

BEO  
Isn't your final driving test  
coming up?

ETHAN  
Tomorrow. Hey, you down to do  
another mission?

46 INT. DRIVER'S ED CLASSROOM - NIGHT

46

Ethan and Beo pick the lock and scurry into the classroom over to Monroe's desk. They start their search.

BEO  
They don't call me the Lock-Pickin'  
Kid for nothing.

ETHAN  
If anyone really calls you that, I  
want my ticket back.

BEO  
So what are we looking for,  
exactly?

ETHAN  
Anything. Something is up with this  
bitch and she'll do whatever it  
takes to make sure no one gets  
their license tomorrow.

They rummage through every file cabinet, desk drawer and shelf.

Ethan notices the lock box under her desk.

ETHAN (CONT'D)  
Bingo.



Ethan tries picking the lock. No dice.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Shit.

BANG! The door swings open so fast it almost breaks off the hinges: in steps an aggressive SECURITY GUARD with a taser and flashlight. His nametag reads DARRYL.

DARRYL

Freeze motherfuckers!

Ethan and Beo scream!

BEO

Is that a taser?!

Darryl holds it to Beo's head like its a Smith & Wesson.

DARRYL

You wanna find out the hard way,  
bitch!?

BEO

No I do not!

DARRYL

Damn. Day one on the job and I got  
a couple of perps.

ETHAN

We're sorry. We'll go. We don't  
want any trouble.

DARRYL

Are you the ones that broke in the  
other night?

They don't respond.

DARRYL (CONT'D)

Because if so, I should be thanking  
your sorry asses for making them  
hire an overnight security guard.

ETHAN

So... you're welcome?

Darryl points the taser at Ethan.

DARRYL

Not quite, bitch! I'm still calling  
the cops on your asses.

BEO  
 Hang on. You can't actually arrest  
 us? You have to call in the big  
 boys to do it for you? Wow.

DARRYL  
 Fuck you!

BEO  
 I'm just saying wouldn't it be nice  
 to have some level of authority for  
 a change?

DARRYL  
 I'm warning you.

BEO  
 No, no. Go ahead and call in the  
men.

POP! He tases Beo in the shoulder, dropping him to the  
 ground.

BEO (CONT'D)  
 AHHHH! FUCK ME!!

ETHAN  
 What the fuck, man?!

DARRYL  
 Ahh shit, I'm, I'm sorry. I regret  
 doing that--

BEO  
 AHHH!

DARRYL  
 You...you good dude?

BEO  
 FUCK NO!

DARRYL  
 Shiiiiit.

47 INT. DRIVERS ED CLASSROOM - LATER

47

Ethan, Beo (holding an ice pack on his shoulder), and Darryl  
 sit on the floor in the hallway.

DARRYL  
 How do you feel now?

BEO  
Don't ask me again.

DARRYL  
Gotchu.

BEAT.

ETHAN  
So. We're good? No cops?

DARRYL  
What were you kids doing breaking  
into a school anyway? Stealing the  
TVs?

ETHAN  
We weren't gonna steal anything.

DARRYL  
Bullshit.

ETHAN  
We think my Drivers Ed teacher is a  
bag of shit and is fraudulently  
failing students.

DARRYL  
Ha! That's it? Man. Drivers Ed,  
huh. You kids need to get your  
licenses or something?

BEO  
No, we wanna get our beekeeping  
permits, motherfucker.

Darryl points at him like "watch it".

ETHAN  
Yes. The final exam is tomorrow and  
if I don't pass with zero mistakes  
we're fucked.

DARRYL  
Still seems extreme to trespass and  
break in somewhere.

Ethan lets out an exhale of defeat.

ETHAN  
(to himself)  
She won. Midge fucking Monroe won.

DARRYL

What's up? Did you just say Midge Monroe?

Ethan nods.

DARRYL (CONT'D)

Aww hell no. She used to run Saturday detentions at the high school years ago. Whooped my ass for looking at her wrong. I couldn't graduate because of her. She made hundreds of high school kids' lives a living hell. Are you kidding me?

ETHAN

Sounds like her.

DARRYL

You know the water tower off New Falls Road?

ETHAN

No.

DARRYL

Couple years ago she busted a keg party and got half the school expelled, even people who weren't there.

ETHAN

Were you there?

DARRYL

Fuck yes. Quit asking. But it still doesn't make what she did right for any of us. Ruined our futures.

ETHAN

How does that happen?

DARRYL

If the people of this town know one thing, it's that Midge Monroe finds a way to ruin you. Always.

ETHAN

So. What does this mean?

Darryl stands.

DARRYL

It means we fuck that fat old  
boiler room bitch.

Boys aren't QUITE sure what that meant.

DARRYL (CONT'D)

Fuck her OVER. Fuck that bitch  
OVER.

ETHAN AND BEO

Ohhhhhh.

48 INT. DRIVERS ED CLASSROOM - MINUTES LATER 48

The three of them stand over the lock box.

ETHAN

There's gotta be something in here  
that will help. We just can't pick  
the lock. Not even Lock-Pickin' Kid  
over here.

Without hesitation, Darryl whips out a professional, grade-A  
lock pick. He jimmy's it into the box. No luck at first.  
After some more struggle...

It opens. Their jaws drop at its contents.

DARRYL

I gotta make some calls.

48A EXT. PACIFIC COAST - MORNING 48A

The sun rises over the coast, giving the Palisades a fiery  
glow.

48B EXT. DRIVER'S ED BUILDING - MORNING 48B

Morning dew covers the Drivers Ed car; the worn hunk of metal  
ready for a big day.

49 EXT. DRIVER'S ED FINALS - MORNING 49

Monroe does some quad stretches as she waits for Ethan and  
Dak to do their four point checks.

Ethan quickly makes a call.

LAUREN (O.S.)

Hello?

ETHAN

Hey it's me. Where are you? I'm about to take the test and I thought you said you're right after us!

INTERCUT WITH:

50

EXT. LAUREN'S HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - CONTINUOUS

50

Lauren sits on her porch steps in tears.

LAUREN

She failed me.

ETHAN

What?!

LAUREN

It's all done, Ethan. Just don't worry about me.

ETHAN

How??

She can't hold back her heartbreak.

LAUREN

I just got some email saying I had too many lates. I told her I had to babysit my sister until my mother came home. But she didn't care. That and the failed written test yesterday did it. Which I swear I didn't fail! I... can't, I...

\*  
\*  
\*

ETHAN

Holy shit.

(BEAT)

I am so sorry Lauren.

Lauren tries to take a deep breath through tears.

LAUREN

I'll...I'll be fine. I just...really, really wanted to see my dad.

Ethan doesn't know what to say. He just listens to her sobbing while looking straight at Monroe.

ETHAN  
I'll call you after, okay?

Ethan hangs up.

MONROE  
Ready?

She smiles.

51 INT. DRIVER'S ED CAR - DAY 51

Dak behind the driver's seat.

MONROE  
Dak, you hit one curb, that's a  
fail. For both of you.

Dak turns on the car, grabs the steering wheel. He looks a  
little nervous. Ethan sits right behind him.

ETHAN  
Hey Dak.

Dak leans his head back.

ETHAN (CONT'D)  
(whispers)  
License and Registration.

Dak's eyes go wide.

MONROE  
Let's go.

Dak smiles, launching us into MONTAGE of Dak's perfect  
driving:

- Flawless turning at intersections!
- Weaving through highway lanes like a knife through butter!
- Effortless parallel parking!

Upon returning to the lot:

MONROE (CONT'D)  
Knock me out and call me curry.  
Very nice, Dak. Looks like you'll  
be getting your license as long as  
Ethan gives gets a perfect score!

52

INT. DRIVER'S ED CAR - MINUTES LATER

52

Ethan's behind the wheel. This is it. Monroe grins from ear to ear.

MONROE

Whenever you're ready, son, begin.

Ethan closes his eyes and takes a deep breath. Here we go.

Ethan puts the car in drive and pulls out into the stre--

**The back right tire catches the curb immediately.**

Monroe's jaw drops. So does Dak's.

MONROE (CONT'D)

Oh. My. Goodness. That has GOT to be the record for the quickest failing exam I have ever--

Ethan FLOORS IT. They speed down the highway.

MONROE (CONT'D)

What the fuck are you doing! It's over! Go back!

Ethan's suddenly calm as the car gains speed. Monroe lunges for the emergency brake, which does nothing more than make a bad metallic squeak.

MONROE (CONT'D)

Motherfuck!

ETHAN

You know what Ms. Monroe? I just got this feeling. If I just failed my drivers test, it's gonna be a while before we do this again, so I wanna give it one last cruise before we part ways.

\*

Monroe leans forward.

MONROE

Are you out of your fucking mind-- Turn the car around right now.

ETHAN

Just relax and enjoy the ride, Midge.



Suddenly, they pass the sign for Jefferson High School with the marquee reading *"Welcome to Hell, Midge Monroe"* underneath.

**MUSIC CUE:** "BYE BYE BYE" by \*NSYNC

Past the high school sign, they pass a group of YOUNG ADULTS dancing on the side of the road, waving as Ethan, Dak and Monroe pass by.

Monroe looks at them, confused.

MONROE

Ethan Chandler what the fuck did you do?

ETHAN

Well, turns out you have quite a reputation in this town spanning over a decade, so we thought we'd all make a day of celebrating you and all you've done for the local residents!

They pass another group of YOUNG ADULTS dancing to the song, around a sex doll with a sloppily taped photo of Monroe's face on the head. One of them slaps its ass.

Monroe is appalled.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

That was some of the class of '98 who claim you failed them in Phys Ed for too many tardies!

They pass a billboard with spray-painted black lettering on a white background: "MIDGE MONROE SUCKS CAT DICK FOR FUN :)".

ETHAN (CONT'D)

(gestures to the billboard)

I believe that's courtesy of class of '03 for canceling their prom when you went to the principal accusing them of growing pot behind the baseball field!

Dak starts laughing off Monroe's horror.

They stop at an intersection. The "Walk" sign lights on the crosswalk, prompting an endless line of people marching across the street, smiling and giving the finger to Monroe.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Ah, these are some of the attendees  
of the infamous water tower keg  
party.

She sinks in her seat.

They drive further down where Phillip (from the Grab N' Go)  
crotch chops at her, much to her confusion.

Ethan smiles at what's ahead.

MONROE

Oh no.. no no no...

Ethan rolls down her window and locks it, as they approach a  
line of disgruntled HIGH SCHOOLERS each holding handfuls of  
eggs.

HIGH SCHOOLER 1

Fire!!

They unload on her.

MONROE

Stop! Fuck! No please!

Ethan speeds further down the road. At a stop sign, they pull  
next to COP CAR.

MONROE (CONT'D)

Officer! Officer I'm being held  
hostage over here!

The window rolls down to reveal Brad the Cop playing the  
middle finger trumpet.

Ethan swerves the car into:

52A EXT. CAROLE'S SPARKLY SHINE CAR WASH - CONTINUOUS

52A

Ethan pulls into the automatic car wash.

ETHAN

A clean car is a healthy car!

A middle-aged woman, surely CAROLE, waves them in.

MONROE

Carole! How dare you Carole! I'll  
remember this, bitch!

Carole waves again.

52B INT. CAROLE'S SPARKLY SHINE CAR WASH - CONTINUOUS 52B

Ethan rolls down all of the windows and locks them. Water soaks them. Monroe is livid, Ethan and Dak bask in it.

They continue down the conveyor belt, getting blasted with rainbow foam.

MONROE

Put the windows up NOW, Ethan!

ETHAN

I feel like I'm in Elton John's bathtub!

DAK

We are tiny dancers!

52C EXT. CAROLE'S SPARKLY SHINE CAR WASH - MOMENTS LATER 52C

Ethan pulls out onto the road.

ETHAN

Almost done Midgey!

Monroe leaps for the transmission and throws the car into park, sending them skidding to a full stop.

MONROE

ETHAN GET OUT OF THE CAR RIGHT!!!  
NOW!!!!

He and Dak get out. A repulsive, rainbow-soaked Monroe slowly gets out too.

MONROE (CONT'D)

Do you have any idea how much you just ruined your life?!

ETHAN

I guess I don't. Do you know how much I just ruined yours?

Monroe doesn't get it. Suddenly, they both notice Darryl, carrying a boombox on shoulder with the \*NSYNC song still playing, boogying towards them. He is THRILLED.

MONROE

Darryl Coffey.

Darryl curtsies.

DARRYL

You a bad, bad bitch Ms. Monroe.  
Bad bitch.

Ethan whips out a manilla envelope and takes out a series of photographs.

ETHAN

See, Ms. Monroe, not only did we discover your extensive history of being the village Satan to multiple generations of young minds, but it's been brought to our attention that you have quite an extensive background in questionable activity, such as forging our exams.

Monroe notices the photographs are all the contents of:

MONROE

(under her breath)  
The lockbox.

ETHAN

And if that wasn't enough, Darryl was able to confirm that many of the parts on this car are not from the original car manufacturer but rather knock off parts that significantly raise the risk of serious, or even fatal accidents to drivers behind the wheel.

Monroe stares.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Now, how could the student driver car possibly be riddled with so many cheap parts destined to send students head first into a failing grade, if not a vehicular injury?

Ethan gestures to Darryl who, through the biggest grin of his life, whips up documents of eBay auctions for the original car parts.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

So! Looks like we're in quite a pickle here. We've kept this all to ourselves up till this point. But now we have a decision to make--

Monroe getting impatient--

MONROE

What do you want?

Ethan gets close to her.

ETHAN

You're going to pass everyone in the class. Immediately. We all get our licenses. Today. And you're never going to teach Drivers Ed, or any class of any kind, for the rest of your life.

Monroe can't believe it.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Or, we can go to the authorities and make them aware of some things. They definitely sound up to give you a nice talking to. So, *if you want that special treatment...*

Ethan gets right up in her face.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

*You'll get it.*

Ethan smiles, patting Monroe's soapy head. Darryl moonwalks with the boombox as he and Ethan celebrate their victory. \*

FADE TO BLACK. \*

SMASH IN:

53 EXT. MALL - DAY

53

Jamie, Toddy, Blake and Co. assemble outside the entrance of the mall, all in their summery music-festival outfits, ready to go. Jamie checks her watch, then scopes the parking lot, searching.

CUT TO:

54 INT. CAR - DAY

54

*CLOSE UP* on Ethan at the wheel.

CUT TO:

55

EXT. MALL -

55

The van pulls into the parking lot. THE. VAN.

They cheer!

JAMIE

SummerFest starts now bitches!

They continue to cheer as the van pulls up in front of them. They hurriedly open the doors and pile in before noticing...

**Beo lounging like a boss in the backseat.**

**And Dak behind the wheel.**

The popular kids stop in their tracks. Toddy and Beo exchange a look.

TODDY

Sup, Glue.

BEO

Sup, Idiot.

JAMIE

Umm. Where's Ethan? He's supposed to drive us.

Dak turns to them.

DAK

I'm the captain now! I'M THE CAPTAIN NOW!

Dak laughs. They're scared shitless.

DAK (CONT'D)

Kidding. But I'm driving. Ethan's not coming.

\*

JAMIE

I don't know--

DAK

Are you saying you don't want to attend the grand SummerFest?

They think. He's right.

They all pile in.

MUSIC CUE: "FIRST DATE" by BLINK 182

56 EXT. HIGHWAY OUTSIDE THE MALL - CONTINUOUS 56

Dak pulls the van out of the parking lot and onto the highway. Cars BEEP at his inability to stay in his lane.

57 INT. CAR - DAY 57

Ethan sits behind the wheel looking at his watch, tapping the dashboard impatiently.

He turns to see Lauren racing up to the car.

ETHAN

You said be here bright and early!

LAUREN

I know I know! Sorry.

ETHAN

You're sure your dad doesn't know  
you're coming?

She smiles.

LAUREN

No idea.

Lauren opens the door and hops in, with the look of the first true glimmer of happiness since we've met her. She holds Ethan's hand as he puts the keys into the ignition. The car roars to life!

Ethan drives out of her neighborhood. They pull on to the highway and their journey begins.

\*

FADE TO BLACK.